

# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

August 2003

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

*Results from earlier monitoring showed that, when Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality were applied where needed, 99% of the time no adverse impacts to water quality were observed. DNR expects the 2003 monitoring to show that Wisconsin's voluntary forestry BMP program continues to be effective and practical in protecting Wisconsin's water resources.*

*Criteria being used to decide whether our resources will be sent out-of-state:*

- 1. Protection of Wisconsin's resources from forest fires must be assured.*
- 2. Managed Forest Law workload must be accomplished.*
- 3. County Forest Time Standards will be met.*
- 4. Planned training will be conducted.*
- 5. Commitments made to other priority work assignments must be met.*

## Teams to monitor for water quality

Three multi-disciplinary teams will monitor thirty county forest timber sales this September. They will be assessing the application and effectiveness of Wisconsin's forestry "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) - a set of voluntary guidelines to help landowners, loggers and natural resource managers minimize nonpoint pollution from forest management activities. Each team includes people with expertise in forest management, soil science, water quality, logging, and a representative of an environmental or conservation group. Another thirty timber sales on state lands will be monitored by contractors.

On July 22-23, twenty-two people attended a training workshop for members of the 2003 BMP Monitoring Teams. The workshop included both classroom and field sessions, with training in the Forestry BMPs, inspecting stream crossings, navigability determinations and permitting requirements.

Tentative monitoring plans for 2004 are to focus on private industrial and federal lands. The monitoring strategy for 2003-04 will provide the first statistically relevant BMP data for federal, state, county and private industrial forestlands in Wisconsin. Previous monitoring efforts have only provided statistically relevant data for private non-industrial landowners and for the state as a whole (across all landowner categories). Forestry BMP monitoring of timber sales began in 1995 with a baseline program. Results of this and other previous monitoring efforts are available on the [DNR Forestry web pages](#). For more information, contact Forest Hydrologist [Dale Gasser](#) at 608-266-1667.

## Wisconsin firefighters head West

The Wisconsin DNR has begun to mobilize personnel and equipment to assist with wildfire suppression in western Montana. So far, two engines, four individuals and two strike-team leaders have been dispatched. Expectations are for the western forest fire situation to escalate and more of our personnel to become involved over the next month.

Wisconsin receives many benefits from this out-of-state fire assistance:

- No single agency can afford to have all of the personnel and equipment needed to fight forest fires during peak activity times so sharing resources is important. Wisconsin uses air resources and personnel from other agencies to assist us during our spring forest fire season.
- Out-of-agency assignments provide valuable training and experience for Wisconsin DNR employees in dealing with forest fire safety situations in the large fire environment which is not always available in Wisconsin on an annual basis. These assignments allow our employees to accomplish a multitude of training tasks to obtain and maintain their forest fire fighting credentials. It also provides an opportunity to demonstrate and test our equipment and tactics in large fire situations.
- Integrating trained personnel from all parts of the state into a working team paves the way for similar actions in Wisconsin during our emergency situations.
- The training and experience gained by our personnel results in no financial cost to the State of Wisconsin because the requesting agency reimburses the state for all costs incurred, including salary, fringe benefits, travel expenses and administrative costs.

For more information, contact [Trenten Marty](#) at 608-266-7978.

## Please comment on draft DNR Web design

*Please help Wisconsin DNR develop a more user-friendly Website by providing your input on the proposed draft!*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is seeking feedback on a proposed new design for the agency's World Wide Web site on the Internet. The redesign is intended to make it easier for the public to navigate and find information on the site, which has information on outdoor recreation, natural resource management and environmental protection.

View the proposed new site by going to the current DNR Web site and clicking on the link on the home page for the [Web Redesign Project](#). The test design includes 200 pages of content for people to review. Along with improving navigation, the new design is intended to: improve how information is presented so it is easier to understand; offer a cleaner, fresher "look" to the site; and improve consistency within the many pages so users can find similar information in the same location on each page.

People who review the prototype pages may file online comments about the new design. A DNR Team responsible for managing the site redesign will review all feedback, add further changes to the new design based on comments, and recommend a final design for the agency's adoption.

The DNR will begin the process of implementing the new design on all site pages after the site design is finalized. The current department Web site will remain intact and fully functional until a redesigned site replaces it. The Division of Forestry plans to implement a redesign of our content once the new Department template is finalized. For more information, contact [Kirsten Held](#) at 608-264-6036.

## Cyclists raise funds for tree research

*Urban forests are havens of serenity and biological diversity within suburban developments and busy streets. They have the power to cost-effectively improve our community environment and social fabric.*

Urban & community forests contribute to the economic vitality and the quality of life in cities. However, lacking proper care, their power and accompanying benefits are wasted and lost. Despite the economic, environmental, and social values provided by trees to cities and all who live in or near them, each day thousands of acres of urban and community forests are cleared for development. Many mature trees are declining or structurally failing. And newly-planted trees often survive for only a few years.

Much like advances in medicine, the future of the urban & community forest depends on continuing research. Increased information about tree biology, pest management, equipment and safety helps ensure the survival and health of trees in the urban environment.

An annual one-week cycling event raises money to support continued research and promotes the importance of urban and community trees and their proper care. Each rider in the "Tour des Trees" gathers pledges of at least \$3,000 for the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund and during the past five years, the Fund has provided nearly \$2,000,000 for critical research projects related to urban tree care.

DNR's State Urban Forestry Coordinator Richard Rideout used vacation time to represent Wisconsin on the 2003 "Tour des Trees." He and nearly 100 other riders began in Ottawa on July 27 and wound 600 miles through New York and Vermont to end in Montreal on August 3. For more information about the ride, visit the [Tour des Trees Website](#), or contact [Richard Rideout](#) at 608-267-0843.

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**"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707**  
Phone: 608-267-7494      Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester      Kirsten Held, Editor

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